

Cardin participated in the latter event with opening comments on the work of the Vienna-based organization Centropa, which prepared the film. Delegation staff attended most of the other side events as well.

BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SERBIA AND A SIDE-TRIP TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

While the delegation travelled to Belgrade principally to represent the United States at the OSCE PA Annual Session, the Helsinki Commission leadership regularly uses this travel to discuss bilateral issues with the host country and to visit nearby countries of concern. In Serbia, the delegation met with President Boris Tadic, National Assembly Speaker Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic, and chief negotiator for technical talks on Kosovo Boris Stefanovic. Ambassador Warlick briefed the Senators and attended the meetings.

Evident in the bilateral meetings was the progress Serbia was making in its internal political transition and attainment of European integration. Serbian officials made clear they were committed to overcoming the nationalist legacy of the Milosevic era, strengthening Serbia's democratic institutions, and encouraging greater respect for the rule of law. While there are clear differences between the United States and Serbia regarding Kosovo, the officials asked for an expression of congressional support for agreements being reached in technical talks between Belgrade and Pristina that were of direct benefit to the people and brought an increased sense of regional stability, as well. They also stressed their support for Bosnia-Herzegovina's unity and territorial integrity. The U.S. Delegation welcomed Serbia's approach and encouraged Belgrade to curtail the activity of parallel Serbian institutions in northern Kosovo which are currently the greatest source of instability in the region. The message was amplified throughout the region by a VOA interview conducted with Senator Cardin.

The U.S. Delegation also met with representatives of Serbia's civil society and Romani communities. The Senators expressed support for civil society efforts to promote greater tolerance in society, to monitor the extent to which laws and policies adopted were actually implemented, and to tackle issues—such as corruption—that impede prosperity. They learned that the Romani communities in Serbia, similar to those in other countries, have difficulties in obtaining adequate housing, education for their children and personal documentation necessary to exercise their rights and privileges as citizens. In a meeting with Serbia's Chief Rabbi, which also included the President of the Jewish Federation of Serbia, the discussion focused on religious tolerance in the region, cooperation with the other religious groups in Belgrade, and property restitution legislation pending in the Serbian parliament.

On July 9, Senator Shaheen left the proceedings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, where ethnically based political differences continue to hamper government formation and the political and economic reforms necessary for progress on European integration. Visiting two days prior to the 16th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica, the Senator met with Kathryn Bomberger of the International Commission on Missing Persons and stood next to Bosniak member of the collective state presidency Bakir Izetbegovic and U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Patrick S. Moon to pay her respects as the procession of 613 victims to be buried during the July 11 Srebrenica memorial service passed by. She expressed U.S. condolences to the families of

those mourning in a media interview that received wide and favorable coverage.

Senator Shaheen also met with Social Democratic Party Chairman Zlatko Lagumdžija and several officials at the entity and local levels of government to discuss ways to overcome the country's current political impasse and to find a solution in particular on forming a state-level coalition government. She also met with several women entrepreneurs and leaders of non-governmental organizations to discuss their particular concerns and ability to have a positive impact in an ethnically divided Bosnian society. From the international presence, the Senator met with Head of the OSCE Mission Gary Robbins and the Deputy High Representative Roderick Moore, both from the United States. Senator Shaheen noted the continued commitment of the United States to political stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its progress toward increasing integration into European institutions, indicating that that engagement was supported both by the Administration and Congress. In a media interview, she stressed that the political and civil society leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina need to work together and across ethnic lines if the country is to accede to the European Union or receive IMF funding.

THE CROATIAN SUMMIT

At the conclusion of the OSCE PA Annual Session and prior to their return to Washington, Senators Cardin and Shaheen joined their colleague, Senator Begich, who was attending the 6th Croatian Summit of regional political leaders and European officials in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as part of the official U.S. Delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns. In his statement to the summit and during meetings with various leaders, particularly with Croatian officials, Senator Begich expressed his appreciation of Croatia's performance as a NATO ally, including its support for NATO operations in Afghanistan, and encouraged Croatia to support neighboring Bosnia's stability and prosperity. He also suggested ways Croatia could enhance its business and investment climate.

CONCLUSION

During the course of three days, the delegation led by Senator Cardin was able to advance U.S. objectives at the multilateral OSCE PA as well as the U.S. bilateral agenda with Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The curtailed schedule precluded additional travel, including a planned visit to Albania, but the Senators compensated with a level of activity that indicated their commitment as well as that of the U.S. Congress and the United States as a whole, to the countries of the Western Balkans and to European security and cooperation through the OSCE.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continues to serve not only as a venue for demonstrating the U.S. commitment to Europe, but for advancing new ideas and issues that parliamentarians can press their diplomatic counterparts in the OSCE to incorporate into the organization's work. In the past, Parliamentary Assembly efforts were responsible for the OSCE undertaking action to combat human trafficking and counter anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance that help define the OSCE today. With proper follow-up in capitals and at the OSCE in Vienna, the recommendations adopted in the Belgrade Declaration will hopefully provide the needed impetus to activity that will keep the OSCE effective and relevant.

Meeting in Belgrade gave a greater-than-usual regional dimension to this year's U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA Annual Session, the immediately preceding Annual Sessions

having been held in Oslo, Norway, and Vilnius, Lithuania. Ethnic tensions and suspicions from a decade of wars in the Western Balkans are still strong factors in the bilateral relations of the countries visited by the congressional delegation, and their economic growth has been negatively affected not only by the larger international crisis but by poor economic governance as well. At a time of both promise and uncertainty, the reassurance of continued U.S. engagement was welcomed by government officials, civil society representatives and by the media that extensively covered the delegation's activities.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address S. 1458, the intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 2012, which has now been reported by the Select Committee on Intelligence. I know that the chair and vice chair of the committee, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator CHAMBLISS, along with their respective staff, have worked hard on this bill, and I support nearly every provision in it. However, I strongly disagree with the decision to include a 3-year extension of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 in this bill, and it is my intention to object to any request to pass this bill by unanimous consent. Consistent with my own policy and Senate rules, I am announcing my intention to object by placing a notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As most of my colleagues remember, Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act in 2008 in an effort to give the government new authorities to conduct surveillance of foreigners outside the United States. The bill contained an expiration date of December 2012, and the purpose of this expiration date was to force Members of Congress to come back in a few years and examine whether these new authorities had been interpreted and implemented as intended.

I believe that Congress has not yet adequately examined this issue and that there are important questions that need to be answered before the FISA Amendments Act is given a long-term extension.

The central section of the FISA Amendments Act, the part that is now section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act itself, specifically stated that it was intended to address foreigners outside the United States, and it even required the Attorney General to develop procedures designed to make sure that any individuals targeted with this new authority are believed to be outside the United States. So one of the central questions that Congress needs to ask is, Are these procedures working as intended? Are they keeping the communications of law-abiding Americans from being swept up under this authority that was designed to apply to foreigners?

I wanted to know the answer to this question, so Senator UDALL of Colorado and I wrote to the Director of National Intelligence if it was possible to count or estimate the number of people inside

the United States whose communications had been reviewed under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. The response we got was prompt and candid. The response said "it is not reasonably possible to identify the number of people located in the United States whose communications may have been reviewed under the authority" of the FISA Amendments Act.

I should be clear that I do not plan to accept this response as a final answer. I understand that it may be difficult to come up with an exact count of the number of people in the United States whose communications have been reviewed, but I believe Congress at least needs to obtain an estimate of this number so that people can understand the actual impact of the FISA Amendments Act on the privacy of law-abiding Americans.

During the markup of the intelligence authorization bill, Senator UDALL of Colorado and I proposed an amendment that would have directed the inspector general of the Department of Justice to review the implementation of the FISA Amendments Act and attempt to estimate how many people inside the United States have had their communications reviewed under this law since it was passed 3 years ago. Our amendment also would have directed the inspector general to examine other important aspects of the FISA Amendments Act, including the problem of recurring compliance violations, and report back to Congress within 1 year.

I regret that the amendment that Senator UDALL of Colorado and I offered was not adopted, but I obviously plan to keep trying to get more information about the effects of this law. I hope that I will find out that no law-abiding Americans, or at least very few, have had their communications reviewed by government agencies as a result of this law, but I believe that I have a responsibility to get concrete facts rather than just hope that this is not the case. And I believe that it would be not be responsible for the Senate to pass a multiyear extension of the FISA Amendments Act until I and others who have concerns have had our questions answered.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to amend this bill, and I am hopeful that they will be willing to modify it to address the concerns I have raised. In the meantime, I should be clear that it is my intention to object to any request to pass the current version of S. 1458 by unanimous consent.

COMBATTING ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I speak today in support of a new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, rule requiring federally licensed firearm dealers in four Southwest border States to report the sale of multiple semi-automatic assault rifles

to the same purchaser. This narrowly tailored reporting requirement, similar to one already in place for multiple handgun sales, will provide ATF with an important tool to combat straw purchases and the illegal trafficking of firearms, including the supply of weapons to drug cartels in Mexico.

Under the rule, federally licensed dealers in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas must report to ATF the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles that have a caliber greater than .22 and accept detachable magazines to the same person within 5 consecutive business days. Weapons covered by the rule include AR-15s and AK-47s, military-style assault rifles favored by Mexican drug gangs. The rule focuses on sales in these four border states because they are the source of 75 percent of the firearms recovered and traced in drug-related crimes in Mexico, according to an analysis of Department of Justice statistics by the organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This rule allows ATF to collect information on guns that are frequently trafficked and used in crimes, improving in the Bureau's tracing efforts. Among other things, gun trace information can be used to identify potential trafficking networks and to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation.

Unfortunately, there are some who want to block ATF's ability to require this information, effectively hindering its efforts to combat gun trafficking and reduce violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. The National Rifle Association and some Members of Congress have claimed that ATF does not have the authority to implement the rule and that the rule would cause an unmanageable burden on law-abiding gun dealers. Both of these claims are false. The Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986, Public Law 99-308, 18 U.S.C. §923 (g)(5)(A), explicitly states that each Federal firearm licensee shall, when requested by ATF, submit to the ATF any information required to be kept by that law, like the name and address of a purchaser and a firearm's serial number, or such lesser information as ATF may request. Information on the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles is part of the record which firearm dealers are required to maintain.

The claim that ATF's new rule will unfairly burden firearm dealers is also unfounded. ATF estimates that completing the form to report multiple rifle sales will take 12 minutes for gun dealers, and substantially less time for those with computerized sales systems. I cannot imagine that the overwhelming majority of Federal firearm licensees who are law-abiding will take offense to 12 minutes of work in the name of combating illegal trafficking and preventing violence.

The mandatory reporting of multiple sales of semi-automatic rifles to the same person is a measured, common sense step to help combat illegal firearm trafficking. The terrible drug cartel-related violence plaguing Mexico

and spilling north of the border into the United States continues to be fueled by weapons illegally trafficked from the American Southwest. Again, I support ATF's new rule, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to oppose any legislative efforts to block ATF's ability to carry it out.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James E. Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will retire tomorrow after 40 years of distinguished service to his country.

General Cartwright is one of America's most respected four-star generals. His leadership and dedication to the security of this country will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

On a personal note, I will miss the detailed briefings, insightful discussions, and honest assessments that I have come to expect from General Cartwright.

Simply put, he has had a notable record of achievement throughout his career.

As head of the U.S. Strategic Command, STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the effort to develop new strategies to tackle cyber, nuclear proliferation, space, and missile defense issues.

He transformed Strategic Command from an organization largely dominated by its mission with respect to nuclear weapons and nuclear doctrine to being the true center in the U.S. military for all strategic issues.

Of special note was General Cartwright's interest and action on cybersecurity and the use of cyberspace. He saw this as a major emerging threat and responsibility of the Department, and put STRATCOM on a footing to deal with cyber as a major strategic issue.

He distinguished himself as one of those special leaders who is able to foresee and understand the constantly evolving national security environment rather than getting stuck in the old ways of seeing the world and doing things.

Based on his notable record of service, on June 28, 2007, President Bush nominated General Cartwright to succeed ADM Edmund Giambastiani as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Cartwright was confirmed by the full Senate on August 3, 2007 and was sworn in on August 31 as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Recognizing his exceptional leadership, General Cartwright was confirmed for a second term on July 31, 2009.

He has, not surprisingly, used his capacity as the second most senior military officer in the Pentagon to make the Armed Forces a more strategic and more nimble military.